Fund for upliftment of minorities

*254. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up a fund for upliftment of minorities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines for spending the money from the fund have been prepared; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) No fund has been set up for upliftment of the minorities.

However, a number of schemes meant exclusively for the minorities have been approved, and funds provided for them like the (i) merit-cum-means scholarship for technical and professional courses at undergraduate and post-graduate level, (ii) post-matric scholarship from class XI upto Ph.D level including technical and vocational courses of Class XI and XII level, (iii) pre-matric scholarship scheme from class I to class X, and (iv) Coaching and allied scheme. The corpus fund of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation has been augmented to Rs. 250 crore, the authorized share capital of National Minorities Development Corporation (NMDFC) has been raised from Rs. 650 crore to Rs. 750 crore and the paid up equity of the Central Government in NMDFC raised from Rs. 375.36 crore to Rs. 445.36 crore in 2007-08. A multi-sectoral development programme for 90 minority concentration districts is on the anvil.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Menace of drug addiction

*255. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVÉE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the growing menace of drug addiction in the country, particularly among the student community;

(b) if so, whether any nation-wide survey in this regard has been conducted;

(c) the particulars of existing drug de-addiction centres in various States, particularly in Kerala; and

(d) the grant-in-aid provided to each such centre, particularly in Kerala, during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is aware of the problems of social deviance in India and their manifestation also in the form of drug abuse. The Ministry, in collaboration with the United Nations Organization of Drug and Crime (UNDOC) conducts various thematic studies and surveys focusing on the pattern and extent of drug abuse. However, these studies/surveys do not suggest that addiction among students is increasing